

# DOE NEWS

For Immediate Release  
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## **DOE Request For Temporary Withdrawal of BLM Land at Crescent Junction Approved**

(Grand Junction, CO)—The Assistant Secretary of the Department of the Interior has approved a request by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Environmental Management for temporary withdrawal of approximately 2,300 acres of public domain lands near Crescent Junction in Grand County, Utah. The Public Land Order was published in the *Federal Register* on November 15, 2005.

DOE signed the Record of Decision for the Moab Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action Project Site in September 2005. The Record of Decision designated the Crescent Junction site for permanent disposal of the uranium mill tailings and other contaminated materials from the former Atlas millsite near Moab, Utah.

DOE is currently in the process of characterizing the Crescent Junction site to determine the exact location and surface dimensions of the disposal cell. DOE requested temporary withdrawal of the entire area with the intent of incrementally relinquishing areas back to public domain as they are no longer required for construction support purposes. The U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), which is under the Department of the Interior, processed the 5-year temporary withdrawal that DOE can renew as many times as necessary to complete disposal cell construction, tailings relocation, and cell closure. “DOE appreciates the cooperative relationship it has with BLM and the efficiency of this withdrawal process,” said Donald Metzler, Moab Federal Project Director. “Continued access to these lands allows us to move ahead with the Moab Project.”

During the first 5-year withdrawal period, DOE will determine the extent of the final disposal cell footprint and buffer zone and will apply for a permanent land withdrawal of the necessary area.

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